

FALKIRK COUNCIL

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 33

Standing Order 33 enables councillors to put questions to the Leader of the Council or the relevant portfolio holder on matters relating to business transacted at a meeting of the Executive or the Education Executive during the preceding cycle. Written notice of the questions must be given.

The Provost will determine the order in which questions are asked and answered. In doing so, he will endeavour to ensure a fair allocation of questions among members. Where any question seeks factual information that could reasonably have been obtained from an officer in advance of the meeting, councillors will be expected to have obtained that information and the Provost will take this issue into account when determining the order in which questions will be asked.

Answers will take the form of an oral response unless they cannot conveniently be given in that form in which case a written response will be provided and circulated at the meeting. The questioner may ask one supplementary question arising directly from the answer given.

The time set aside for questions and answers will not exceed one hour unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Provost determines otherwise. Questions not answered within the hour will receive written responses within 7 days.

If the Provost is of the opinion that a question is out of order, it will not be answered.

The following questions have been set out in the order in which they appear in the relevant minute. The Provost will determine the order in which they are answered at the meeting.

QUESTION NUMBER	MINUTE REFERENCE	COMMITTEE	TITLE OF REPORT	QUESTION
1	EE18	Education Executive - 27 August	Pilot Community Hubs - Camelon and Dawson	Under the cover of- Improving our Open Spaces- Improve use and access to community facilities and create community hubs – it would appear that Education Services have defined the unspecified – Community hub- as either a family learning centre or a structured learning

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				<p>centre- in this respect Governance procedures will be critical to the development of this project- Which governance model will the education adopt?</p> <p>A- Partner representatives from key service providers and selective community representation.</p> <p>B- Parent council</p> <p>C- User council – representative from groups established to meet identified needs as identified group as identified through Community planning.</p> <p>D- Direct management by a council department.</p> <p>Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>
2	EE18	Education Executive– 27 August	Pilot Community Hubs - Camelon and Dawson	<p>Priority: Promote community, family and individual resilience- With the shift from universal community support to- ‘Focused Work in Localities’ strategies obviously underpin policies- From recent planning exercises- 2007 to 2013- what key indicators and trends were identified relating to the two communities of Camelon and Bainsford/Langlees which will influence policy direction within each community hub?</p> <p>Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>
3	EE18	Education Executive – 27 August	Pilot Community Hubs - Camelon and Dawson	<p>With the Council introducing a system of priority based budgeting which policies relating to each community hub will be prioritised in the first instance?</p> <p>Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>
4	EE18	Education Executive – 27 August	Pilot Community Hubs - Camelon and Dawson	<p>In every reorganisation or reconfiguration there are always winners and losers- What assistance and support mechanisms within each community hub will be put in place to mitigate the impact on existing user groups – which will be displaced from the premises to another venue e.g. school accommodation?</p>

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5	EE18	Education Executive – 27 August	Pilot Community Hubs - Camelon and Dawson	<p>Due to the high demand which will be placed on community hubs to fill accommodation with partner led initiatives utilising the national free let accommodation. Has Education Services created a model of income generation which will enhance the resources required to service new initiatives to meet changing community needs?</p> <p>Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>
6	EE18	Education Executive – 27 August	Pilot Community Hubs - Camelon and Dawson	<p>Today society is encouraged to move its thinking from a deficit modelling approach to some type of asset based approach -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A- What effect and impact will an asset based approach have on existing community groups using the existing premises compared to a deficit modelling approach? B- What discussions have taken place between partner organisations and Education Services in relation to how the asset based approach will be implemented. C- Does Falkirk Council have an asset transfer policy in place? If not at what stage has this policy deliberation reached? D- Education services have bracketed community hubs as Open space. <p>What difference in approach compared to the property asset management type will this definition have in the resource allocation to maintain the Hubs?</p> <p>Councillor Gordon Hughes</p>

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7	EX41	Executive – 6 August	Community Council Elections	To ask the leader of the Council what actions are being taken to encourage the formation of community councils where they do not currently exist? Councillor Stephen Bird
8	EX41	Executive - 6 August	Community Council Elections	Isn't it a little late in the day to be establishing a Policy Development Panel on the community councils considering we are just about to commence elections? Councillor Robert Spears
9	EX42	Executive – 6 August	The Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Bill	Does the portfolio holder envisage any difficulties in the Council implementing the provisions of the bill? Councillor Colin Chalmers
10	EX42	Executive - 6 August	The Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Bill	What steps have been taken to clarify the position regarding the potential to lose the £32M recoverable VAT? Councillor Brian McCabe
11	EX43	Executive - 6 August	Falkirk Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan	Will there be a review of the Falkirk Council's Parking Charging policies as part of or complementary to the Falkirk Town Centre Management Plan Implementation? Councillor John McNally
12	EX43	Executive – 6 August	Falkirk Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan	What changes to the existing Council policies will be forthcoming to encourage the re- population of Falkirk Town Centre? Councillor John McNally
13	EX44	Executive - 6 August	Housing Estate Management Policy	Can the portfolio holder identify where the information required by the Scottish Housing Regulator will be recorded and held? Councillor Brian McCabe

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14	EX44	Executive - 6 August	Housing Estate Management Policy	Regarding the question of Grading of Estates, do we propose to have a system of First and Second Class estates identified? Councillor Robert Spears
15	EX46	Executive - 6 August	Bereavement Services and Policies and Standards (Including cemeteries capacity)	To ask the portfolio holder why the issues which lead to the report being tabled to Council on 26 June had not been identified and addressed earlier? Councillor Stephen Bird
16	EX46	Executive - 6 August	Bereavement Services and Policies and Standards Including cemeteries capacity)	To ask the Portfolio Holder what Policy constraints the proposed Policy Development will work to? Councillor Stephen Bird
17	EX 51	Executive – 6 August	Contract for M9, Junction 6 to Earlsgate Interchange Signalisation	What is the value of Earlsgate Interchange Signalisation budget? Councillor Robert Spears
18	EX58	Executive – 17 September	Consultation on Social Work Assistance with transport policy and proposed changes	Can the portfolio holder please advise if the proposal to consider charges for social work transport to the most vulnerable in our society has been through a poverty proofing exercise before going to consultation with service users? Councillor Meiklejohn
19	EX59	Executive – 17 September	Social Enterprise Strategy	The portfolio holder referred to an amount of £70k at the executive meeting on 17 September. What was this for? Councillor Robert Spears
20	EX60	Executive – 17 September	Big Lottery Funding – Supporting Welfare Reform	Could the portfolio holder for Health and Social Care advise if enquiries to CAB and their partners Falkirk Council's Benefit/Debt Advisers have increased since the

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				introduction of the Government's Welfare Reform programme? Councillor Charles MacDonald
21	EX60	Executive – 17 September	Big Lottery Funding – Supporting Welfare Reform	Has the impact of the bedroom tax and Falkirk Council's response to it been subject to a poverty proofing exercise by the local authority? Councillor Colin Chalmers
22	EX61	Executive – 17 September	Financial Capability and Inclusion	We are advised that Council will appoint a Financial Inclusion development worker, as well as a Financial Capability development worker. Can the leader of Council indicate to Council where the funding for these positions will be facilitated from? Councillor Brian McCabe